



## GREYHOUND WELFARE & INTEGRITY COMMISSION

### DISCIPLINARY ACTION DECISION

**Date of decision:** 14 February 2025

**Decision-makers:** Senior Steward Zane Turner and Steward Sam Woolaston

**Name of relevant person:** Ms Crystal Pillar

**Date:** 25 November 2023

**Rule no:** 165(b)(iii)

**Charge(s):** **Charge 1**

Ms. Pillar did a thing which, in the opinion of the Controlling Body, constitutes an offence, by publishing the use of improper language in any matter or form in relation to a Club.

**Plea:** Guilty

**Disciplinary action taken:** To prohibit Ms. Pillar from participating in greyhound racing in any specified capacity for a period of 3 months, ending Wednesday 14 May 2025.

Ms Pillar was also issued a fine of \$1500, which is wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months subject to Ms Pillar not reoffending under the same of similar rules in this period.

### INVESTIGATION:

1. Ms Pillar was, at all relevant times, a registered Owner Trainer with the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission.
2. On 25 November 2023 a greyhound trained by Ms Pillar, namely Tiger Barty, competed in an event at the Potts Park racecourse and was injured during the event.
3. On 25 November 2023 Ms Pillar published a post on her social media platform Facebook account.
4. The published post contained the use of improper language towards or in relation to a Club, namely Potts Park.
5. On 10 December 2024 Ms Pillar was issued a Notice of Stewards Inquiry, directing Ms. Pillar to attend a hearing scheduled for 13 December 2024.

6. At the Inquiry held on 13 December 2024 Ms Pillar provided verbal submissions.

**DECISION:**

7. On Tuesday 28 January 2025 Ms Pillar was issued with a notice of charge and proposed disciplinary action (“**Notice**”).
8. In the Notice issued on 28 January 2025 the decision makers issued a charge under Rule 165(b)(iii) of the Greyhound Racing Rules, which reads:

**Rule 165(b)(iii), Rules**

An offence is committed if a person (including an official):

...

(b) publishes or causes to be published, or broadcasts or causes to be broadcast, the use of any contemptuous, unseemly, improper, insulting, or offensive language in any manner or form towards, or in relation to:

(iii) a Club, or an officer, employee or member of a Club;

9. The Notice invited Ms Pillar to attend a hearing on Tuesday 11 February 2025 at which time she would have the opportunity to enter a plea and make submissions in relation to the charge and proposed penalties. The penalties decision makers proposed were:

**Charge 1 Rule 165(b)(iii) – To issue a 6-month suspension and a fine of \$2500**

10. On Wednesday 29 January 2025 Ms Pillar contacted decision makers and;
  - entered a plea of guilty;
  - provided written submissions;
  - advised that, due to personal circumstances, she would be unable to attend the hearing on the specified date; and
  - made application for decision makers to proceed with the hearing in her absence.
11. Based on the submissions provided by Ms Pillar, decision makers determined to reschedule the hearing set down for Tuesday 11 February 2025 to Friday 14 February 2025, to afford Ms Pillar a further opportunity to attend the hearing.
12. On 13 February 2025 Ms Pillar contacted decision makers and;
  - advised that, due to personal circumstances, she would again be unable to attend the hearing on the specified date; and

- made application for decision makers to proceed with the hearing in her absence.

13. On 14 February 2025, the decision makers heard the matter via Microsoft Teams in the absence of Ms Pillar.

14. Following consideration of all the relevant material, Ms Pillar’s plea and submissions, the decision makers found the charges proven and determined to impose the following disciplinary action upon her:

**Charge 1 – Rule 165(b)(iii)** - To prohibit Ms. Pillar from participating in greyhound racing in any specified capacity for a period of 3 months, ending Wednesday 14 May 2025.

Ms Pillar was also issued a fine of \$1500, which is wholly and conditionally suspended for a period of 12 months subject to Ms Pillar not reoffending under the same of similar rules in this period.

15. In taking this disciplinary action, the decision makers considered all relevant material and evidence, including:

- Ms Pillar’s Guilty plea;
- Ms Pillar’s written submissions;
- Ms Pillar’s disciplinary history;
- The period to which Ms Pillar has been without any registrations within the industry; and
- The objective seriousness of the offence

.....End.....